(b) whether it is also a fact thai the Air Headquarters have decided to drop the project of planting Dhub grass, also known as Bermuda grass, which discourages birds from taking shelter in it; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRT SHIVRAJ PATIL): fa) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) This recommendation of the Bombay Natural History Society was not found cost effective. However, this question is being re-examined in consultation with the Bombay Natural History Society. The result of Dhub grass planting by the Civil Aviation authorities in one of their airfields, is also being watched to derive appropriate lessons therefrom.

Damage to Naval Dockyard Bombay

2023. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will Che Minister of DEFENCE b_e pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the civilian employees of the Indian Naval Dockyard in Bombay caused a great deal of damage to the property of the dockyard in September last;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent recurrence of such types of incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) On 29th September, 1987. about 2000 employees assembled i_n the Dockyard and demanded payment of wages on that day itself. They shouted slogans and then turned violent, damaging some Service vehicles, private vehicles and other Government property. A Board of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate into the circumstances leading to the incident and the extent of damage done.

(c) Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Board of Inquiry. Meanwhile, the Naval Headquarters have issued instructions to all concerned to ensure against such incidents.

Persons living below poverty line in Rajasthan

2024. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA; Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state;

(a) the number of persons living below poverty line in Rajasthan and what is their percentage vis-a-vis other States; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve their economic conditions in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) According to the latest Statewise estimates of persons below poverty line f°r the year 1983-84 which are based on the 38th round of NSs of Household Consumer Expenditure, 126.2 lakh persons were below poverty line in the State of Rajasthan. The statement indicating percentage of persons below poverty line in Rajasthan vis-a-vis other States in 1983-84 is enclosed. *See* Appendix CXLIV,- Annexui* No. 83]

(b) Removal of poverty remains a central concern of Planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan development strategy and the pattern of growth envisaged is expected to lead to reduction in poverty. The emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth, adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers, implementation of the minimum $need_s$ programme, and expansion of irrigation facilities will make a substantial contribution to reduction of poverty. In addition, the Seventh Plan also includes a number of anti-poverty and employment promotion programmes specifically de-

signed to raise incomes and productivity of the people below poverty line. While *It* allocating resources to the States under the poverty alleviation programmes, more emphasis is now given to the incidence of poverty as compared to the Sixth Plan. Rajasthan will also get substantial Central assistance under the Modified Gadgil formula. The outlay for Seventh Five Year Plan for Rajasthan has been fixed at Rs. 3000 crores which is 48 per cent higher than the outlay of Rs. 2025 crores for Sixth Five Year Plan. Greater emphasis is being laid on employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes and programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These measures will help in further promotion of economic growth in the State and improve the condition of the people below the poverty line in the State.

Cases Pending in Rajasthan High Court

2025 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will fee Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to stale:

fa) the total number of cases pending before the Rajasthan High Court as on date:

(b) the number of vacancies to be fill—used up in the Rajasthan High Court as on date;

(c) the date on which each vacancy occurred;

(d) the steps taken or are proposed to be taken to dispose of the pending cases; and

(e) by when the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per the information furnished by the Registry of the Rajasthan High Court. 47063 cases were pending before the Court as on 1.1.1987.

(d) A Statement of steps taken for early disposal of pending cases is enclosed herewith. *(See* below)

(b), (c) and (e) The sanctioned strength of the Rajasthan High Court is 21 permanent Judges and 1 additional Judge. As on 20-11-1987, all the Judges were' in position, leaving no vacancy.

Decision has been taken to create 6 new posts of additional Judges in the Rajasthan High Court. Some proposals for appointment of additional Judges against these posts have been received It is, however, not possible to indicate the time when these appointments would be finalised.

Statement

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Courts:

1. Elimination of arrears in all the Courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September, 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commenced to the High Courts and the State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgement of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (vide Section 100A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. The Sanctioned strength of the . High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 440 as on 1st February, 1987.

5. Apart from the above. certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:

(a) Cases involving common questions are being groupped by several Hieh Courts: